



# West Chicago Church of Christ

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## A Preacher's Perspective

**B**lessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness. Psalms 41:1-3 (KJV)

Nothing so insures us of special providence and consideration from God from our troubles and trials than a generous heart. Ira North, a great champion of care for the needy, used to love to quote the verses above from Psalms 41.

It is not surprising that many would think that emphasis on helping the poor may come primarily from Jesus' example

and teaching, but the Old Testament is also full of the theme of showing mercy and justice to those in need. To note just a few of those texts....

Psalm 72 prophesies of Jesus that He will "judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor." Psalm 72:4 (KJV)

The book of Proverbs contains many encouragements to consider the poor and to be generous to the needy:

A liberal man will be enriched, and one who waters

will himself be watered. Proverbs 11:25 (RSV)

He who despises his neighbor is a sinner, but happy is he who is kind to the poor. Proverbs 14:21 (RSV)

He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed. Proverbs 19:17 (RSV)

He who has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. Proverbs 22:9 (RSV)

He who gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse. Proverbs 28:27 (RSV)

And, of the virtuous woman, it is said, "She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy." Proverbs 31:20 (RSV)

We should feel very blessed to be in fellowship with many "virtuous women" who are busy, especially this time of year, and in fact, all year long, with reaching out their hands to the needy. There is no doubt, after reading the texts above, that God is mindful of every act of kindness, mercy

*"Give,  
and it will be  
given to you.  
A good measure,  
pressed down,  
shaken together  
and running over,  
will be poured  
into your lap.  
For with the  
measure you use,  
it will be measured  
to you."*

*LUKE 6:38*



and compassion.

We are blessed to be a blessing and I encourage you to redouble your efforts to see the opportunity of giving as a wonderful grace. Don't be lured into weariness in well-doing, but thank God that you have means to minister to others.

As you read over these powerful texts which encourage generosity, or perhaps other favorites, reflect on the richness of the gifts we have received. "For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Chuck Miller

# Welcome to the West Chicago Church of Christ

If you are visiting with us, we especially want to welcome you. We pray our time together worshipping our Father in heaven will be uplifting and encouraging.

Bible classes are available for all ages. Babies can be taken to the nursery located at the back of the auditorium. All other children meet in classrooms downstairs. Teens meet in the teen room, which is also located at the back of the auditorium. Adult classes meet in the auditorium and in the fellowship room downstairs.

Our Small Group Fellowship program takes place during the fall, winter and spring months and is on the first and third Sundays of each month and is in lieu of the Sunday evening worship. The Small Group Fellowship schedule does change occasionally due to holidays.

You are an honored guest and we want to thank you for being a part of our worship this morning!

- Sunday Morning Bible Class . . . . . 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday Morning Worship . . . . . 10:30 a.m.  
(The Sunday Morning Worship is interpreted for the deaf.)
- Sunday Evening Worship . . . . . 6:00 p.m.  
(No evening worship on Small Group Fellowship Sundays)
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class . . . . . 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our elders.

**Elders:**

- Don Brewster                      Bob Jett
- Chuck Miller                      Bob Voigts

**Deacons:**

- Justin Avey:** Benevolence, Fellowship, Stewardship & Leadership
- Jay Hearn:** Worship & Pulpit, Communications, Outreach, Education, Benevolence
- Cliff Plummer:** Fellowship, Benevolence, Education
- Curt Robinson:** Education, Stewardship & Leadership
- Rick Root:** Communications, Education, Stewardship & Leadership
- Paul Stirrup:** Stewardship & Leadership, Benevolence



350 East James Avenue  
West Chicago, Illinois 60185  
(630) 231-2062  
wcfamily@wcfamily.org  
www.wcfamily.org

## This Morning...

Please take a moment to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest this morning. Please pass them to the aisle to be picked up before the sermon. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack. You may choose to have prayers by the elders, a prayer warrior or by the whole church family. If you choose "whole church family" it will be announced following the sermon.

**Order of Worship**

- Welcome
- Singing - Jay Hearn
- Announcements - Cliff Plummer
- Singing
- Prayer - Justin Avey
- Singing
- Lord's Supper
- Contribution and Prayer Card Collection
- Sermon - Chuck Miller
- Singing
- Prayer Card Responses and Prayer - Bob Voigts
- Announcements
- Singing
- Closing Prayer - Mike Henkel

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- December 9 . . . . . Donna Young
- December 10 . . . . . Ethan Stirrup
- December 11 . . . . . Alec Boyd, Bobbie Whitman
- December 13 . . . . . Jim & Maria Zeisler (anv.)
- December 14 . . . . . Sandy Boyd

## Dates to Remember

- December 9 . . . . . Holiday Dinner
- December 19 . . . . . Seniors Breakfast
- December 25 . . . . . Merry Christmas!
- December 31 . . . . . New Year's Eve Lock-In/Teens
- January 7 . . . . . York College Chorus Concert

## Records You Helped Make

- Sunday Morning Bible Class . . . . . 58
- Sunday Morning Worship . . . . . 105
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class . . . . . 40
- Contribution . . . . . \$8,306.51

Every good and perfect gift  
is from above, coming down  
from the Father of the heavenly lights,  
who does not change like shifting shadows.  
James 1:17

## In Our Prayers...

**Tanya Baum, Taylor's mother**, is having some health issues and is having tests done. **Taylor's grandmother, Diane**, is also experiencing health issues. Taylor passed away a couple of weeks ago after her struggle with leukemia.

**Ellen Lee Flenar, Sally Hearn's aunt**, will be in a nursing center for at least 8 weeks to receive antibiotic treatments for a staph infection in her knee.

**Kelly Ieler** suffered a heart attack last week. She is recuperating at home.

**Dan Knutsen** is the son of a teacher from the Link's school. He is in his early 20's and fell while on a mission trip last year and became a quadriplegic. He is struggling with many health, mental and spiritual issues.

**Kim MaGuire, Rick Root's sister**, is having surgery soon to remove a spot on her lung.

**Tim Miller** was to have had a myelogram to evaluate his spinal nerve damage, but they were unable to complete the test. He plans to consult with doctors in Madison for additional assessment.

**Caitlin Mullins** is having problems with her shoulder and is scheduled for surgery around Christmas.

**Fintan Schiltz, the infant son of Jay and Sally's neighbor**, is still waiting for a heart transplant.

**Margo Smetana, the infant daughter of Steve Link's friend**, has been in the hospital since the day she was born, September 17. She had a heart transplant and then open heart surgery. She has an infection which is complicated by the anti-rejection drugs she must take.

**Bob Voigts** found out this week that his cancer has returned. He will begin treatments in January.

### Those suffering with long-term issues:

Andrea Bailey - a former member from California

Irene Barnes - Lynette Root's aunt

Paul & Judy Bertrand - Lynette Root's parents

Lisa Beverly - Sandy Boyd's sister who has MS

Bonnie Bingham

Jim Brannon - Pat Brewster's brother-in-law

Mary Brent - Joe Kirts' sister

Nancy Brewster

Julie Chavez

Bob Czernik - Chris's husband

John Day

Lisa DeVaney - Marie Hayes' daughter

Al Dorsey

Chad Englebach - Marie Hayes' grandson

Amy Ferguson - a former member from Montana

Jean Gray - Linda Vantreese's sister

Elizabeth Griffin

Josephine Haggerton

Sarah Hayden & family - Maria Zeisler's relative

Mary Henkel - Mike's mother

Kathy Huml - John Pedersen's sister

Amy Kalupski - sister-in-law of Julie Chavez's friend

Joe and Star Kuhnle - Chuck & Bobbye's foster son

Sue Lake - Marion's sister-in-law

Don Lemley

Debbie Lawrence - Bobbie Whitman's niece

Anne Librande - Joanne Johnson's mother

Steve Link

Jack Lockett - the father of Charlie, Mike, Shelley,

Julie Chavez, Missy Kissane, & Becky Pedersen

Mike Lockett - Joan's son

Laura Mahan - Shirley Rucker's daughter

Steve & Melissa Massie family

Danielle Nichols - Alyssa Milam's niece

Josh Otte - Chris Czernik's nephew and the son of

Marion Lake's cousin

Doug Peterson

Melinda Poff - the sister of Jason Willis

Pat & Neil Ronzheimer

Kay Schrader

Chester & Phyllis Sittler

Bruce Snyder - Bob Voigts cousin

Cindy Stewart - Bob Voigts' cousin

Katie Stiger - Bobbye Miller's infant niece

Ollie Taylor - the niece of Lynette Root's friend

Linda Vantreese

Eudie Voigts - Bob's mother

Jim & Jamie Winner

Jeremy & Jim Whitman

Rick & Gina Zamora

### Mothers-to-be:

Natalie Conner - Sally Hearn's niece

Renell Johnston - former member

Erin Livermore - Craig & Bev's daughter-in-law

### Armed forces overseas:

Greg Billings - Justin Avey's employee

Toby Logsdon - Dewayne & Marilyn Smith's son-in-law  
in Iraq along the Iranian border

Dustin Meritt - Justin Avey's employee

Chris & Jennifer Roberts - Cathleen Longfellow's  
sister & brother-in-law are going to Iraq for 16  
months, they have a 1-year-old daughter

Shane - the son of LeAnn Sexton, a friend of  
Lori Plummer's

David Teel - Justin Avey's employee

### Missionaries:

Jarrold, Allison, Soledad & Levi Brown - Honduras  
(especially for their adoption process of Soledad)

Obadiah Doka & Family - Nigeria

Dry Bones Ministry - homeless teens in Denver, CO

Juan & Roxanna Flores - Honduras

Leonardo Ken & family - Honduras

Keith, Kim, Candace, Laura & John Mark Lango  
- Brazil

Makinde Olufemi - Nigeria

Shults-Lewis - the teens, their families, the workers

Joe Voigts - China

## Nursery Workers

Sandy Boyd, Marianne Stirrup



## Collection Counters

Steve Link, Paul Mullins



## Holiday Dinner!

Our **Holiday Dinner** is **TODAY** in the fellowship room immediately following morning worship. If you are visiting with us today, we especially want to invite you to join us! Please note: there will be no worship this evening.

## Caroling!

We are going caroling this **Friday, December 14**. We'll start at Franciscan Court at 6:30 p.m. and will sing there for about 30 minutes and then we'll go visit several members' homes. The evening will end with a fellowship. We hope to see you there! If you would like to come for part of the evening, please see Sally Hearn or Cyndi Perez.

## York College Choir

The **York College Choir** will be presenting a concert here on **Monday evening, January 7th**. We will be serving them dinner Monday before the concert and we will need housing for 50 people for Monday night, which includes serving them breakfast Tuesday morning and bringing them back to the church building. Please see Sally if you are able to assist with dinner or housing.

## Ieler Family

We are planning meals for the Ieler family for Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. We also thought frozen meals would be useful. Please see Marianne Stirrup, Sally Hearn or Bobbye Miller if you would like to help.

## Benevolence Needs

One of the families who visits our food pantry is requesting Christmas gifts. There is a sign-up sheet/wish list on the bulletin board in the foyer.

## Sunday Morning Teachers

The winter quarter has started and runs through the end of February. All of the classes have the same teachers as last quarter, which is as follows: Nursery – Bev Day, Preschool – Frances Shearer, K - Grade 1 – Becky Pedersen, Grades 2 - 4 – Steve Link, Grades 5 & 6 – Jay Hearn, Grades 7 - 12 – Cliff Plummer, Adult 1 – Chuck Miller, Adult 2 – Rick Root (Scott Fordyce begins in January)

### Women's Spiritual Disciplines Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Chapter
December 12, 2007	Service	7
December 19, 2007	Submission	None
December 26, 2007	Stewardship: Time	8
January 2, 2008	Stewardship: Money	8
January 9, 2008	Simplicity	None
January 16, 2008	Evangelism	6
January 23, 2008	Perseverance in Disciplines	13

## Youth & Family News

**TEENS:** Our next **Sunday Night, Light** is next Sunday, December 16th.

Plan now to attend our annual **New Year's Eve Lock-In** and bring a friend! It's \$28 per person, which includes unlimited bowling, laser tag and pizza. Sign-up on the sheet outside the Teen Room.

## Shults-Lewis Pick-up

Shults-Lewis is picking up our donations this **Tuesday, December 11**. You still have time to bring catsup!

## Small Groups

Our Small Groups program resumes on January 6th. Leaders, please pick up the book we're using from Cliff.

## What Remains

I spend my days building skyscrapers with LEGOs and creating relationships with other moms at Starbucks, but have not love, I am only the siren of the kids' ride-on fire truck.

If I have the gift of knowing which child attempted to flush the Hot Wheels down the toilet and which one pushed her sister, and if I have faith that somehow we'll survive life's emergencies, but have not love, I am nothing.

If I save all my box tops for school and give outgrown clothing to the local shelter, and if I surrender my body to stretch marks and under-eye circles, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient when someone isn't ready to use the big-girl potty. It is kind when my husband has a hard day. It doesn't envy my neighbor who drives the new sport-utility vehicle I can't afford.

It is not rude, snapping at my spouse or children when things don't go my way. It is not easily angered at perceived or real injustices.

It always protects the smallest, sweetest family confidences; always trusts God to provide for my children's needs; always hopes in the freshness of tomorrow and the bright future of family; always perseveres amid hardship and doubt.

Where there are sleepless nights, they shall end. Where there are diapers, Little League, and dioramas built from shoe boxes, they will cease. Where there is knowledge of baby-care trends, discipline strategies, and boy-girl problems, it will pass away.

Now these three remain: faith, lived out in my daily circumstances and instilled in my children; hope, of one day rejoicing with my family in heaven; and love, which covers over a multitude of less-than-perfect moments.

But the greatest of these is love. It is what remains... long after I am gone.

*By Joanne Heim, from "Focus on the Family Bulletin."*